



# Economic and Social Council

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## Commission on Narcotic Drugs

### Reconvened sixty-seventh session

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## Draft report

*Rapporteur:* Fabio Esteban Pedraza Torres (Colombia)

### Addendum

## Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions

1. At its 1st meeting, held jointly with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on 5 December 2024, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs considered agenda item 4, which read as follows:

“4. Strategic management, budgetary and administrative questions:

(a) Work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(b) Directives on policy and budgetary issues for the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

(c) Working methods of the Commission;

(d) Staff composition of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other related matters.”

2. For its consideration of item 4, the Commission had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the work of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2024/3/Add.1-E/CN.15/2024/3/Add.1](#));

(b) Report of the Executive Director on gender balance and geographical representation within the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2024/16-E/CN.15/2024/17](#));

(c) Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2024–2025 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([E/CN.7/2024/17-E/CN.15/2024/18](#));



(d) Conference room paper on the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (E/CN.7/2024/CRP.15-E/CN.15/2024/CRP.8).

3. The Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Management and the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs of UNODC made introductory statements. The representative of Colombia, in her capacity as Vice-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, also made an introductory statement.

4. A joint statement was made by the representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, China, Japan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Morocco and Mexico.

6. Statements were also made by the observers for Pakistan, Egypt, the Philippines, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Malaysia and Afghanistan.

7. The representatives of the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the observer for Israel made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

## **A. Deliberations**

8. Many speakers expressed appreciation for the work carried out by the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC, which continued to serve as a forum for dialogue between Member States and UNODC on strategic and programmatic matters with a view to increasing transparency and accountability in administration, operations and the budget. It was emphasized that dialogue with the Executive Director allowed for timely responses to the needs and concerns of Member States.

9. Several speakers welcomed the report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2024–2025 for UNODC ([E/CN.7/2024/17-E/CN.15/2024/18](#)) and the draft proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance for 2024 (E/CN.7/2024/CRP.15-E/CN.15/2024/CRP.8).

10. Several speakers recognized the progress made in implementing the UNODC Strategy 2021–2025 and the regional strategic visions, and some speakers reported on ongoing programming in their countries. Appreciation was expressed to the Office for its commitment to results-based management and evaluation. Some speakers stressed the need to integrate cross-cutting priorities, such as gender equality, environmental sustainability and human rights, into the design and implementation of UNODC projects and programmes in order to ensure their relevance, effectiveness and alignment with global standards.

11. Several speakers recognized that UNODC had continued to deliver valuable assistance to Member States but that the financial challenges faced by the Office remained. The need for a balanced distribution of resources and fair access to assistance was mentioned by some speakers. Several speakers expressed concern about the continuing decrease in general-purpose funds. It was highlighted that adequate, predictable, flexible and sustainable funding was critical for the Office to enhance the provision of technical assistance and capacity-building, in particular in developing countries. Member States were encouraged to consider increasing flexible contributions. It was also emphasized that sustainable funding should be allocated to country offices to enable them to implement the mandates of the Office in the field. The Office was invited to consider approaches to reduce its dependence on extrabudgetary resources, to strengthen efforts to ensure an innovative and transparent funding model, and to broaden its donor base.

12. Concern was raised regarding the ongoing liquidity crisis of the regular budget of the United Nations, which adversely impacted the Office's financial stability and compromised its ability to effectively fulfil its mandates, including supporting the intergovernmental work of the Commissions, as exemplified by the cancellation of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2024.

13. UNODC was encouraged to strengthen its cooperation with other United Nations entities, including at the field level, with a view to promoting coherence and synergy in international actions.

14. Some speakers noted that the Office's research work should be based on mandates provided by its governing bodies, and that the research should be impartial, reliable and transparent. The need for regular dialogue and close consultations between Member States and UNODC regarding the topics of ongoing and planned publications and research activities was emphasized.

15. Many speakers expressed their support for the continued efforts by UNODC to improve geographical representation and encouraged the Office to intensify its outreach efforts in order to further increase the representation of staff from underrepresented countries and widen geographical representation. In addition, it was emphasized that the basis for the selection of candidates should be merit, as well as competence, as enshrined in Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations.

16. The continued efforts by UNODC to improve gender parity at all levels was welcomed by a number of speakers. They encouraged UNODC to make further progress towards achieving gender parity, especially at senior management levels, and reiterated their support for gender mainstreaming in all aspects of the Office's programmatic work.

## **B. Action taken**

17. At its 1st meeting, on 5 December 2024, the Commission endorsed the nomination of Annika Markovic (Sweden) as Vice-Chair of the standing open-ended intergovernmental working group on improving the governance and financial situation of UNODC for the remainder of 2024.

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